Technical Session 5:
Public Utility Issues

Effectiveness of Inspection Techniques in Identifying Conditions Requiring Remediation of In-Service Thick Sapwood Species Utility Poles Located in Eastern, Midwestern, and Southeastern United States

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this presentation is to illustrate the effectiveness of various traditional wood utility pole inspection methods in identifying "reject" poles compared to a full excavation inspection. These traditional inspection methods can range from simple visual inspections to the more involved process of partial excavations. Previous research has provided estimates of the effectiveness of these methods, but this study was conducted to determine whether these estimates remain accurate or if they need to be revised.

Addressing Public Utility Specifications

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ABSTRACT

There are roughly 3,000 electric utility companies (investor-owned, publicly owned, and cooperatives) which supply power to 150 million customers in the United States as well as another 151 in Canada. I have yet to include communications and cables companies that are among the 200 million wood poles that dot the utility landscape. It is roughly estimated that only 1 percent of those that buy wood poles do not have a specification. Many relying on their sales representative to provide what is needed. In some cases, not matching the right pole and preservative to their region. A specification should be seen as the blueprint to assuring that you have the proper fit to meet your needs. It should be perceived as a win-win as both the supplier and user clearly understand what is being ordered.

Maximizing Service Life of Utility Poles

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ABSTRACT

The utility industry has used wood poles for over 100 years. The utility pole industry has seen a decline in knowledgeable participants for both producers and purchasers. AWPA has a long involvement with the protection of wood poles. This review of the steps from order preparation through pole maintenance is to add even more value to the properly treated pole by assuring a long service life. WQC (Wood Quality Control) as a part of the NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) is trying to assure utilities that wood poles are part of their system, while the ultimate goal is developing training modules that make conversation between producer and user easier so that all can make sure that the right preservative treated wood pole is used in the right application, to maximize the service life of utility poles.

Fumigant-Based Temporary Reservoir vs Diffusible Borate-Based Expandable Reservoir Strategy for Utility Pole Remediation in Dry Climatic Zones

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ABSTRACT

Data packages from field inspections and remedial treatment strategies were analyzed to determine the best approach for remediation programs in dry arid climates. The data indicated that the most effective path forward for the remediation of utility poles in dry climatic zones would be to implement a diffusible expandable preservative reservoir as opposed to the depleting preservative reservoir provided by traditional fumigants. The implementation of the expanding reservoir strategy should be viewed as a multi-cycle approach, but with the understanding that both short and long-term wood protection goals will be achieved.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Wood and Steel Utility Poles

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NO ABSTRACT SUBMITTED